GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:372
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005
IMPACT OF HYDEL POWER PROJECTS ON ENVIRONMENT
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ministry has conducted any comprehensive study on the impact/sustainability of hydel power projects from the environment point of view;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether environment oriented institutions/activists have urged the Ministry to stop further construction of hydel power projects which are causing environmental imbalance;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 372 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 22.08.2005 ASKED BY SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY AND SHRI UDAY SINGH ON "IMPACT OF HYDEL POWER PROJECTS ON ENVIRONMENT"

(a)&(b) No, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not conducted any study on the impact / sustainability of hydel power projects.

(c)&(d) In the recent past the Ministry has not received any representation from any Institution / activist for stopping of further construction of ongoing Hydroelectric Projects. However, in case of Athirapally Hydroelectric Project (163 MW) in Kerala representations were received from local NGO Chalakudy Puzha Samrakshana Samithi and an international NGO, Volunteer Aid India against the Ministry's order of February 2005 revoking the suspension of the environmental clearance granted for the project in January 1998.

(e) All the concerns expressed in the above two representations were carefully considered by the Ministry while granting the environmental clearance for the Athirapally project. Therefore the representations merit no further consideration.